



Amy G. Rabinowitz
Counsel

December 2, 2002

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Re: D.T.E. 01-106

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

I am responding to Commissioner Manning's November 22, 2002 request for information on matching our data files with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services' MASSCares database. Attachment 1 to this letter describes the information that Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company (collectively "Company") have that could be used in a match against a state beneficiary database, and the information the Company would need. In addition, the Company is willing to participate in a trial match with the MASSCares database.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this proceeding.

Very truly yours,

Amy Rabinowitz

cc: Service List

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Attachment 1

The Company has the following information in its data files that could potentially be used to match against a state beneficiary database:

1. Required Customer Data:

- a) Customer name (3 fields are kept on the master file)
 - 1. Customer Name. This is a group field, 26 positions in length, which contains the first and last name of the customer. Spacing, arrangement and spelling would have to be identical to the state database in order for the group to be a match.
 - 2. Last Name. This is a 15 character field containing the customer's last name.
 - 3. First Name. This is an 11 character field containing the customer's first name.
- b) Service Address: A group field with 41 positions containing the service location (address) pertaining to a customer account.
 - 1. Service Address Street Number: 5 character alpha/numeric field
 - 2. Street Name: 15 character alpha/numeric field
 - 3. Street Suffix: 4 character alpha/numeric field
 - 4. Apartment: 5 character alpha/numeric field containing the apartment, suite or floor.

2. Optional Customer Data:

- a) Social security number
 - This is a 9 character alpha/numeric field that was designed to store either the social security number or the customer welfare number. Both pieces of data are optional. The social security number is not available for all customers, and the Company cannot require that the customer provide it. As a result, the social security number can be used as a criteria for matching only for those customers that have voluntarily supplied this information.
- b) Mailing (Street) Address (Mailing address "if" different from service address)
 - This is a 30 character, free form, field that stores the street address, street number, and name for mailing:
 - a. City/State: Group field 30 positions in length
 - b. City: 13 character field
 - c. State: 2 Character field
 - d. Zip: 5 Character field

The Company would need the following information from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services:

The Company would request the same information that is available today for recipients of any means-tested public benefit or verification of eligibility for the low-income home energy assistance program (LIHEAP), or its successor program, for which eligibility does not exceed 175% of the federal poverty level based on a household's gross income.

- a. Customer Name (Customer of Record. Last, first, middle initial)
- b. Customer Service Address (Address, city, zip)
- c. Customer Telephone Number
- d. Social Security Number (9 characters)
- e. Electric Account Number (12 characters)
- f. Type of Benefit under which they qualify*

* Supplemental Security Income, Public Housing, Veterans Chapter 115 Benefits, National School Lunch Program, TAFDC, EAEDC, Head Start, Mass Health, Veterans DIC Surviving Parent, School Breakfast Program, Food Stamps, Veterans Non-Service Pension, Fuel Assistance, Mass Comm Blind Benefits.